

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 1, 3a and 4. These sheets, which include Figures 1, 3a and 4, replace the original sheet including Figures 1, 3a and 4.

In Figure 1, reference number 25 has been added.

In Figure 3a, reference numbers 27, 29 and 44 have been added.

In Figure 4, reference numbers 31 and 33 have been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the prior election, claims 1, 8-13, 26, 27, 30-32 were elected. In response to the Office Action, claim 1 has been carefully amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 8, and claims 2 and 8 have been canceled. Claims 3, 4, 7, 10 and 11 read on the elected invention, and accordingly they have been amended to depend on claim 1. Claims 12 and 13 also read on the elected invention, as does new claim 41. Claims 5 and 6 have been withdrawn and claims 8 and 9 have been canceled.

Claim 26 has been carefully amended to read on the elected invention. Also, applicant acknowledges the prior cancellation of claims 27 through 29, but not claims 30-32. Claim 32 has now been canceled, but claim 31 also reads on the elected invention.

Also the errors noted in the disclosure by the Examiner have been corrected.

With respect to claim 12, the Examiner points to a description of the actuator of Figure 1. However, that description is a general description applicable to all actuators of all embodiments, and distinguishes over other types of actuators, typically longer stroke actuators that do not actuate to a zero magnetic gap. In that regard, note the sentence starting on line 9 of page 17, talking about the embodiment of Figure 4. The "left end of the spool resting against the face of the left pole piece" is clearly reciting a zero magnetic gap as described with respect to Figure 1. Similarly, exciting the opposite coil will pull the spool against the face of the right pole piece, again a zero magnetic gap condition (new claim 41). With respect to claim 31, the Examiner is correct, and this claim has been appropriately amended to correct the inadvertent error. Accordingly examination of claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10-13, 26, 30, 30 and 41 is respectfully requested.

Also the specification and drawings have been amended to specifically identify the first and second magnetic members and to better highlight the operation, particularly of the embodiment of Figure 4.

Finally claims 1, 8, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) on Kolchinsky. Claims 1 and 26 have been amended to better distinguish over the prior art. Claim 1 now includes a second spring and a second actuator, and the further limitation that the second spring forces the first magnetic member to an extreme position when not magnetically attracted to the first position. In Kolchinsky, each spring is active only over one half of the travel of the moveable member, providing a stable center position for the moveable member. In the present invention however, the stable position is at one extreme position of the first magnetic member, which in a valve system, sets a predetermined state when power is off, frequently an essential valve characteristic. In that regard, the springs in Kolchinsky are for a different purpose than the springs in the present invention. In Kolchinsky, the springs are to provide a stable intermediate moveable member position, while in the present invention, one spring particularly is to increase the speed of operation of the device.

Claim 26 has been amended to specifically set out the operation of the embodiment of Figure 4 with both springs of that embodiment, and clearly distinguishes over the operation of

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the device of Kolchinsky. Accordingly reconsideration of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

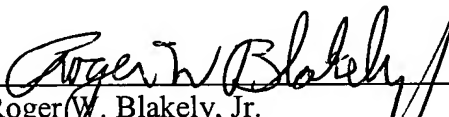
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: October 24, 2005

By



Roger W. Blakely, Jr.
Reg. No. 25,831
Tel.: (714) 557-3800 (Pacific Coast)

Attachments

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025

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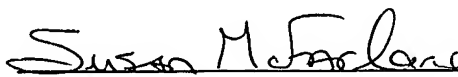
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Susan McFarlane
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